

REMARKS

The Applicant appreciates the Examiner's thorough review of this application. Reconsideration and re-examination are respectfully requested in view of the instant amendments and remarks.

With regard to paragraphs 1, 3 and 4 of the Office Action, the Applicant was obliged to the Examiner for pointing out that the features upon which the Applicant relied were not recited in the rejected Claims 8 – 12 and 14. In view of this, new Claims 15 – 21 have been proposed to replace the previous Claims 8 – 14.

The previous Claim 8 now occurs as new Claim 15. The new Claim 15 is believed clearly to meet the objections in paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Office Action. More specifically, at part (ii) of the new Claim 15, it has now been specified that the tensioning means is positioned adjacent to and inwardly of at least one of the edges of the suction chamber such that tension in the film parallel to the edge is increased by the tensioning means moving the film in a direction into the suction chamber. As the Examiner has obviously appreciated, the Applicant's method as shown by the Applicant's drawings 3 and 4 is quite different to the method shown by Triesman et al. In Triesman et al, the O-ring 13 which the Examiner says is equivalent to the Applicant's tensioning means is positioned outwardly of the edges of the suction chamber. In addition, the Triesman et al O-ring 13 does not move like the Applicant's tensioning means which is now specified to move the film in a direction into the suction chamber.

The above differences in Claim 15 are believed now clearly to emphasise the differences between the Applicant's invention and that of Triesman et al, as envisaged by the Examiner in paragraph 1 of the Office Action. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that Triesman et al does not show the feature (iii) (c) of previous Claim 8 and new Claim 15, which feature is that the holding means feeds the tensioning means into position after the film has been attached to the suction chamber. Because Triesman et al operates in a completely different manner, it is not seen how the Triesman et al O-ring 13 is fed into position after the Triesman et al film 10 has been attached to the suction chamber 21. In fact, the Triesman et al invention is so different from the Applicant's invention, that the Triesman et al O-ring 13 seems to form more a part of essential holding means for Triesman et al rather than tensioning means. In Triesman et al, the parts 13, 18, 24, and 25 all seem necessary in order to hold the film 10 in position. The tensioning effected by the O-ring 13 appears to be extra to its holding function.

New Claims 16 – 21 correspond to previous Claims 9 – 14.

With regard to paragraph 2 of the Office Action, the typing error at Claim 12 line 1 has been corrected in the corresponding new Claim 19.

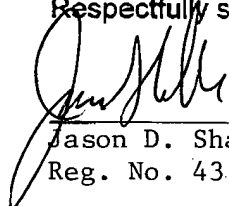
The Applicant relies for patentability of the new Claims 16 – 21 on the fact that these claims include all of the features of Claim 15, which Claim 15 is believed to be allowable for the reasons specified above.

With regard to paragraph 5 of the Office Action, the Applicant was much obliged to the Examiner for indicating that Claim 13 would be allowable. However, in view of the restrictions made to the previous Claim 8, the Applicant would appreciate broader protection than that offered by Claim 13. As mentioned above, the new Claim 15 which corresponds to previous Claim 8 is now believed to be absolutely clear of Triesman et al.

Each of the Examiner's rejections has been addressed or traversed. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

If for any reason this **RESPONSE** is found to be **INCOMPLETE**, or if at any time it appears that a **TELEPHONE CONFERENCE** with Counsel would help advance prosecution, please telephone the undersigned or one of his associates, collect in Waltham, Massachusetts, at (781) 890-5678.

Respectfully submitted,



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